

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

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USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3465

E.O. 11652: GDS 79

TAGS: NATO, FR, ETRN, ENRG, P/M

SUBJ: CENTRAL PIPELINE SYSTEM (CEPS)-SPECIAL NATO AUDITORS'
REPORT.

DEFENSE FOR OASD/I&L, MR. NOLAND AND COMPT, MR. UMBARGER; JCS
FOR J-4 PETROLEUM; CINCEUR FOR J-4/JPO; AMEMB PARIS FOR MR.
HUMPHREYS.

REF: A. USNATO 2846; B. STATE 123102; C. PARIS 17723

BEGIN SUMMARY: CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE POLICY COMMITTEE (CEPPC)
MET IN RESTRICTED SESSION ON 18 JULY TO ESTABLISH PLANS FOR ITS
EXAMINATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN SPECIAL REPORT BY NATO BOARD
OF AUDITORS ABOUT CEPS NON-MILITARY OPERATIONS IN FRANCE AND THE
FRENCH REPLY THERETO. ACTIVITIES WERE RESTRICTED TO INTERVIEW
WITH CHAIRMAN, NATO BOARD OF AUDITORS, DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS AND
APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT GROUP OF THREE RAPORTEURS TO CONDUCT
INVESTIGATION AND DRAFT REPORT TO BE PRESENTED TO CEPPC IN OCTOBER.
PLANS WERE AGREED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY US AND FRANCE.
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END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN CEPPC (HOLDEN, UK) NOTED THAT THE SPECIAL
REPORT OF THE NATO BOARD OF AUDITORS REGARDING NON-NATO

OPERATIONS IN FRANCE HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE CEPPC BY THE NATO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (EXS 73/102). HE STATED THAT THIS INITIAL MEETING SHOULD ESTABLISH THE GROUNDWORK AND A PLAN BY WHICH CEPPC COULD PROCEED. HE WELCOMED MR. DRAKERT, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO BOARD OF AUDITORS AND INVITED HIM TO COMMENT ON THE REPORT.

2. MR. DRAKERT THEN REVIEWED THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT, SUGGESTED THAT THE NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING SUCH A REPORT WAS APPLICABLE AND ASSURED COMMITTEE THAT THE AUDITORS WOULD MAKE ANY NECESSARY COMMENTS ON THE REPORT PREPARED BY CEPPC AND WOULD ULTIMATELY ADVISE THE COUNCIL ABOUT THE SUFFICIENCY OF ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN OR PROPOSED BY CEPPC.

3. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED FOR COMMENTS BY FRANCE. THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE WAS WILLING TO SEE THE USUAL PROCEDURES FOLLOWED IN THE EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED AND WOULD COMMENT ON THEIR SUBSTANCE AS THE WORK PROGRESSED.

4. THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVE (HOFMAN) CIRCULATED A NOTE (FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON VIA POUCH) WHICH MADE PROPOSALS AS TO HOW THE COMMITTEE COULD PROCEED IN THE REVIEW. HE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF A GROUP OF THREE RAPORTEURS WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GATHERING ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AND PREPARING A REPORT TO CEPPC. AFTER DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION OF SEQUENCE OF ACTION TO BE FOLLOWED, THE CEPPC INVITED (1) CHAIRMAN HOLDEN, (2) FORMER CEPPC CHAIRMAN (1960-66) DUNCAN (CANADA), AND (3) MR. HOFMAN TO BE RAPORTEURS. THEY WOULD ACT FOR CEPPC TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS OF THE DELEGATIONS, WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NATO AUDITORS AND PREPARE A REPORT.

5. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED THE GENERAL MANAGER CEOA IF A PAPER WHICH PROVIDED EXTRACTS OF ALL PERTINENT DOCUMENTS COULD BE PREPARED AND IF THE MORE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES AND PERTINENT FACTUAL DATA COULD BE QUICKLY PREPARED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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CEOA. THE GENERAL MANAGER AGREED TO DO SO AND INDICATED THIS HAD BEEN BEGUN. HE SAID IT COULD BE AVAILABLE TO CEPPC MEMBERS BY 1 SEPT 73 AND THAT IT WOULD BE AS COMPLETE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ALL FACTUAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION NEEDED BY THE RAPORTEURS AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

6. THE COMMITTEE THEN REQUESTED THAT THE FINAL REPORT BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT IN ANY CASE BE READY FOR DISCUSSION AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.

7. THE CHAIRMAN CEPPC ACCEPTED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS POSED BY CEOA AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHICH THEY WISHED

EXAMINED AND ANSWERED. HE THEN CLOSED THE DISCUSSION, REQUESTING THAT REPRESENTATIVES NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE GENERAL COMMENTS AT THIS TIME ABOUT THE REPORT OR ITS ALLEGATIONS UNTIL ALL THE FACTS HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED. THE COMMITTEE WAS ASKED TO APPROVE THE GENERAL PLAN AND THE DESIGNATION OF RAPORTEURS. ALL AGREED, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY US AND FRANCE. COMMENT. WE DEFERRED MAKING COMMENTS BASED ON REF B UNTIL LATER MEETING WHEN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY WILL PRESENT ITSELF. IN OUR OPINION THE INVESTIGATION WAS PUT IN GOOD HANDS AND WE WILL HAVE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT US QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS AS IT PROGRESSES. END COMMENT.

8. OUR RESPONSE TO PARA 3 OF REF B WILL SOON BE FORWARDED BY SEPTEL. IN OUR VIEW FRENCH COUNTER ACTIONS AGAINST DONGES-METZ AGREEMENT AT THIS STAGE ARE ONLY REMOTE POSSIBILITY AS THEY FIND PRESENT TERMS OF AGREEMENT ADVANTAGEOUS TO FRANCE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED BY 30 JULY 73 WE PROPOSED TO CONFIRM AGREEMENT TO GENRAL PLAN OF CEPPC AND TO DESIGNATION OF THREE RAPORTEURS INDICATED. RUMSFELD

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